



RCCAO comments on proposed comprehensive EA project list

Nov. 9, 2020, Vaughan, Ont. – The [Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario \(RCCAO\)](#) today provided comments and recommendations on the proposed Comprehensive Environmental Assessment Project List to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

One of RCCAO's primary areas of focus has been on reform of the Municipal Class EA (MCEA) system, including specific changes to reduce the delays and costs often associated with the delivery of local infrastructure projects.

It has also been RCCAO's position that various stakeholders and local residents should have a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on projects which might have environmental, social and economic impacts, provided that the consultation does not trigger disproportional delays or costs.

RCCAO has been actively advocating for improvements to various Ontario EA processes for more than a decade and has worked closely with the province and other stakeholders to identify potential improvements.

RCCAO also supports the proposal to use a list of project descriptions as the threshold for the level of environmental assessment, provided that the existing streamlined classes, such as MCEA projects, are sufficiently broad to avoid any regulatory gaps.

Overall, RCCAO recommends that the proposed project list contain additional details to allow proponents to determine whether the addition of capacity, such as a road or cycle lanes to an existing roadway or an additional track to a railway or transit line would have the same distance threshold as de novo projects.

RCCAO also provided a [submission](#) on new regulations for the Municipal Class EA process that were submitted Oct. 21.

Background on RCCAO: *The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) is a labour-management construction alliance. For 15 years, RCCAO has been a leading industry advocate for infrastructure investment. It has commissioned 57 independent, solutions-based research reports to help inform decision makers.*

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